**PATENT** 

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

## AMENDMENT AND REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Dear Sir:

This Reply is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003 (Paper No. 5).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

## CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Reply is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this **30** day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2003.